

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for cleaning and sterilizing a medical device comprising the steps of:

placing the device into a container;

cleaning the device in the container with a cleaning solution;

rinsing the device in the container with a rinse solution;

vaporizing a liquid substance in the container to create a sterilant vapor and contacting the device with the vapor to effect sterilization of the device.

2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising storing the device in the container in sterile form.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the liquid substance comprises a retained portion of the rinse solution.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the rinse solution comprises a chemical sterilant.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the chemical sterilant comprises hydrogen peroxide.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the liquid substance comprises a chemical sterilant.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the chemical sterilant comprises hydrogen peroxide.

8. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising introducing the liquid substance as a mist.